

son was the producing cause through which his father came into being, or that a daughter was the producing cause of her mother's existence. Property in the land existed long ere there were laws in the land. Cain must have been as certainly the proprietor of the field which he rendered valuable by incorporating his labour with its soil, as Abel of the flock which his labour had tamed or reared. Both the land and the animals were general gifts to the species from the Beneficent Giver of all ; and the *individual* right was fairly constituted in the one case by the man who broke in the animals from their state of original wildness, and in the other by the man who cleared, and tilled, and sowed the hitherto uncultivated waste, and converted it into a patrimony worthy of being bequeathed to his children. There must have been at least as much labour expended in the case of the agriculturist as in that of the shepherd ; and, if the poets are to be regarded as authorities,—and there are instances in which they wonderfully approximate to the truth,—considerably more. Paley tells us that the first partition of an estate which we read of was that which took place between Abram and Lot,—“If thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right ; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.” Had he examined his Bible just a little more carefully, he would have found that the transaction was not a partition of land,—for Abram had none at the time,—but a mere temporary arrangement regarding the occupation for a certain term of a certain extent of common ; that the portions of land in that country with which, according to Locke, human labour had been mixed up, had already, in consequence of the incorporation, become property ; and that when Abram desired the field of Macphelah, with the sepulchral “cave that was in the end thereof,” he had to purchase it of the proprietor for “four hundred shekels of silver.” If the sole foundation of men's rights to their landed properties was, as